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Knowledge co-production: the next step in the development of Mental Health Nursing?

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Abstract

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Title

Knowledge co-production: The next step in the development of Mental Health
Nursing?

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Co-production in mental health relates to the combined efforts of mental health professionals and people with lived experience to develop, and ideally, deliver education programs for maximal impact. Extending this beyond education, into the realm of knowledge co-production offers the mental health nursing profession a pathway for leadership in the field. In a rapidly changing mental health environment, co-produced knowledge and a shared voice can be powerful forces. By exploring the lived experience of, and with, people who have used mental health services - with the explicit aim of transforming the way these services are designed, delivered and evaluated - the profession can leverage its expertise to magnify the voice of service users. This paper describes a PhD study exploring the meaning of safety with people who have experienced admission to acute mental health inpatient units. The study will inform the way the concept of safety is understood and represented in this setting, with particular emphasis on policy, practice and professional development. As a mental health nurse of more than two decades, the researcher believes the most important role of the profession is to stand alongside mental health service users as advocates for change. Through knowledge co-production, the profession can galvanise this alliance and build an enviable reputation for leadership in new service delivery approaches.